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Title: Need for maintenance of airstrips of Kolhapur airport in Maharashtra by Airport Authority of India-Laid.

SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBA MANDLIK (KOLHAPUR): The Kolhapur airport is located in agricultural production zone. The items like flowers, mangoes of various varieties, Hand-crafted goods, variety of jaggery and Hand-crafted Silver ornaments are being exported from Kolhapur & surrounding districts like Sangli & Ratnagiri through Mumbai Air Terminal.

In addition to above, various industrial machines and parts are also being exported from Kolhapur industrial Estates. Kolhapur district also has 22 Spinning Mills and majority of them manufacture export quality yarn which is also exported from Mumbai. The district also boasts of 18 functional sugar mills and, therefore, has a potential of heavy passenger traffic.

The Kolhapur Airport was made operational in the year 1987 and was taken over by Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) on 16.04.1997 from Airport Authority of India. Since then the airport maintenance is being looked after by MIDC, Maharashtra.

Recently the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Chief Executive Officer, MIDC have agreed to handover airstrips at Gondia, Kolhapur, Amravati, Yeotmal & Ratnagiri in Maharashtra to Airport Authority of India.

In this connection, I may also add that the Minister of Industry of Maharashtra State has already conveyed willingness to terminate the lease agreement which was signed by the parties concerned about 15 years ago as well as providing water, electricity & airport security free of cost.

Through you good office, Madam, I urge upon the Central Government to direct the Airport Authority of India for taking over the airstrips from the MIDC as early as possible.